

Making work, work.

Our goal is to help you understand how work may allow you to become more financially secure and independent. Benefit specialists do not work on matching individuals with specific jobs. They do help remove barriers to employment, including concerns about SSA cash benefits and medical coverage.

Contacting a Benefits Specialist.

Specialists are available statewide to provide individual work incentives planning and assistance. To reach a specialist that serves your area, or for more information on The Connect to Work Project, contact us at:
1-800-773-4636
1-860-424-4839 (TTY)
Email: info@connect-ability.com

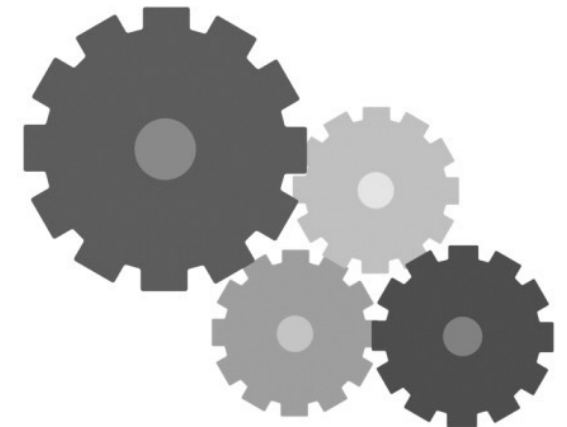
The Social Security Administration (SSA) also funds a protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) Project. PABSS provides direct advocacy assistance to SSI and SSDI beneficiaries in making informed choices regarding public and private vocational rehabilitation services, asserting their employment rights and negotiating the rehabilitation services system.

The Connect to Work Project receives partial funding through Social Security's Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) grant.



Connect-Ability is funded by the
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The Connect to Work Project



Connecting
you to information
about **work** and
your **benefits.**

Receiving a Social Security disability benefit and working or planning to return to work?

Wondering how work will affect your federal and state benefits?

Questions about medical benefits when you work?

**Together
we can work
it out.**



A more secure future starts here.

Want to have more money, feel better about yourself and become more independent?

Community Work Incentive Coordinators (CWICs) are Benefits Specialists who can help.

Benefit Specialists can provide:

- Specific information on work incentives available to Social Security recipients.
- Examples of how a combination of earning and benefits – or earnings alone – can help you achieve a more secure financial future.
- A review of your benefits and services to help maximize your independence.
- Quick turnaround if you are actively considering an offer of employment.
- Follow-up services after you return to work.

I've been referred to a Benefits Specialist – what happens now?

That depends on your stage of employment.

If you are employed or self-employed, or are considering an offer, The Connect to Work Project will make every effort to get accurate, individualized information to you as quickly as possible either in person, by phone or by mail.

If you are looking for work, thinking about looking or exploring your career options, a specialist will speak with you over the phone as well as send you work incentives information. As you move closer towards employment, an individual session will be scheduled.

Is connecting (or reconnecting) with a specialist ever urgent?

Yes! If you are employed or self-employed or considering an offer, it is important to meet with a specialist as soon as possible. Other important times to meet or reconnect include:

- Getting a job, raise or an increase in work hours
- When considering employer benefits – i.e., health insurance, retirement benefits, etc.
- Decrease in work hours or ending employment
- Starting or finishing an education program
- Starting a business
- Participating in or writing a Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS)
- Other

Remember, just because you've seen a benefits specialist before, doesn't mean you have the most current information. That's why it's important to stay in touch with your specialist.